

REMARKS

The Office Action raised issues under 35 U.S.C. §112 on the operative relationship between the various claim elements.

The present invention can receive a banknote for example, entered into a vending machine, through a banknote accepting unit, which after approving the genuineness of the banknote, passes the banknote along a first transporting unit 7 to a second transporting unit 8, as shown in Figure 2, to vertically align the banknote for entrance into a receiving slot 24 as shown in Figure 4.

A translating unit 48 will align the banknote within the safe unit 5 at a storing position. The safe unit can be removably mounted within a chassis or housing. A driving lever 6 is operatively mounted to the chassis outside of the safe unit and has an eccentrically mounted crank for driving the driving lever 6 about a pivot point 40 as shown in Figure 2. A guide opening 30 can transmit the movement of the driving lever 6 through a driven pin 32. A first driving lever 91 pivots on the shaft 90 and is connected to a second driving lever 92 that is mounted on a shaft 74 of a pushing unit of the translating unit 48. A spring 93 is attached between the first driven lever 91 and the second driven lever 92. The spring provides an elastic member for moderating the driving force applied to the pushing board 83 as it moves through an opening 88 to contact a banknote and to force the banknote through the opening 88 into the safe unit. The banknote will contact other banknotes, or if it is the initial banknote, will contact the spring bias holding board 53.

As shown in Figure 7, links 76, 77 and 78 cause a sliding board 79 to force the pushing board 83 through the opening 88 during movement of the banknote into the storing section of the

safe unit. Because of this parallel linkage assembly, the holding board will not rotate and will provide a steady linear movement for moving the banknote.

It is believed that these features have now been adequately linked together in the amended claims.

As can be appreciated, the operation of the transporting unit, translating unit, driving levers and parallel linkage assembly with a pushing board could be altered in other embodiments. It is believed that the present claims, however, provide more than adequate cooperative relationships of these claim elements to meet the §112 requirement of particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the present invention.

If the Examiner has any questions with regards to this matter, the undersigned attorney would appreciate a telephone conference.

The Office Action further contended that the U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0175463 of *Abe* and the present inventor, Yamamiya could be utilized to reject Claims 1, 3-4, 7-10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Attached hereto is a verified English translation of our Japanese Priority Document, along with a certified copy of the Priority Document, which establishes a filing date of September 9, 2002 to thereby moot the *Abe* reference as prior art.

New Claims 16 and 17 provide an alternative definition of the invention that is also believed allowable

Accordingly, it is believed that the present case is now in condition for allowance and early notification of the same is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview will help further the present prosecution,
the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed phone number.

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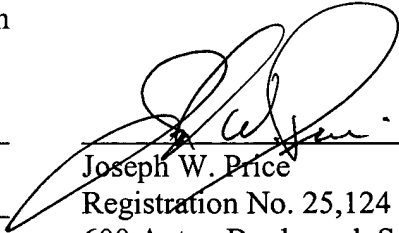
By: Sharon Farnus

Sharon Farnus
Signature

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Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



Joseph W. Price
Registration No. 25,124
600 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400
Costa Mesa, California 92626-7689
Telephone: (714) 427-7420
Facsimile: (714) 427-7799